

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, dated October 13, 2004, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-28, and 31-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by BROWN et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,631,363); rejects claims 2, 16, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over BROWN et al. in view of TEEGAN et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,748,555); and rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over BROWN et al. in view of ESCOLAR (U.S. Patent No. 5,926,100).

By way of the present amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1, 10-13, 21-23, 32, and 33 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 2, 3, 9, 14-20, 24, and 29-31 to improve form, and add new claims 34-36. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Claims 2-9, 14-20, 24-31, and 34-36 are pending.

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-28, and 31-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by BROWN et al. Claims 1, 10-13, 21-23, 32, and 33 have been canceled by way of the present amendment, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot. New independent claims 34-36 have been added by way of the present amendment and claims 2-8, 14, 15, 17-20, and 24-31 have been amended to depend from claims 34-36.

At the outset, Applicants note that the rejection of claim 31 is improper. Claim 31 depends from claim 30, which was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on BROWN et al. and TEEGAN et al. Therefore, a proper rejection of claim 31 must be based on BROWN et al. and TEEGAN et al. Applicants will address the rejection of claim 31 under the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on BROWN et al. and TEEGAN et al. Applicants request that the Examiner clarify the ground of rejection with respect to claim 31.

A proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that a single reference teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. See M.P.E.P. § 2131. Applicants respectfully submit that BROWN et al. does not disclose the combination of features recited in claims 3-8, 14, 15, 17-20, 24-28, and 34-36.

For example, independent claim 34 is directed to a network-based automated message handling system for initiating responses to messages transmitted through a network by application components. The system includes at least one customer-defined message handling rule, at least one service-based message handling rule, at least one common message handling rule, and a message handler. The message handler is configured to receive a message from an application component, determine, based on a content of the received message, whether to apply the at least one customer-defined message handling rule, determine, based on the content of the received message, whether to apply the at least one service-based message handling rule, determine, based on the content of the received message, whether to apply the at least one common message handling rule, identify at least one first party when the at least one customer-defined message handling rule applies to the received message, identify at least one second party when the at least one service-based message handling rule applies to the received message, identify at least one third party when the at least one common message handling rule applies to the received message, and generate new messages to the identified at least one first party, the identified at least one second party, and the identified at least one third party. These features are similar to the features recited in previously pending claims 1 and 12, which were rejected as anticipated by BROWN et al. BROWN et al. does not disclose or suggest the combination of

features recited in claim 34.

For example, BROWN et al. does not disclose or suggest at least one customer-defined message handling rule, at least one service-based message handling rule, and at least one common message handling rule. The Examiner relies on col. 3, lines 18-60, of BROWN et al. for allegedly disclosing at least one service-based message handling rule and at least one common message handling rule (Office Action, pg. 4). Applicants submit that this section of BROWN et al. does not disclose or suggest at least one service-based message handling rule and at least one common message handling rule, as required by claim 34.

At col. 3, lines 18-60, BROWN et al. discloses:

Some events 22 are routed to an alert manger 24, which is a particular type of event handler. As described further in connection with the remaining figures, alert manager 24 handlers incoming events by determining whether any incoming event requires that a notification, or alert 26, is to be forwarded to a user 28. Alert manager 24 utilizes a set of rules to determine to whom, and when, notifications should be made to a user 28.

Referring to FIG. 2, the types of applications 12 which generate events may be classified generally into two categories. The first category is referred to herein as business objects 30, which may include within them state machines 32 and similar operating modules. Business objects 30 generate "explicit" events, meaning that the code of the business object application explicitly generates an event to be sent to event router 16 as events occur. This capability must be programmed into business objects 30 and their state machines 32.

Explicit events are useful, in the present invention, for indicating when a single event has occurred. For example, when a sale is made, or a product changes price, or a new product becomes available, if the corresponding business objects are properly programmed events will be generated. These can be picked up by alert manager 24, and used to generate notifications.

A second kind of application that can generate events is referred to herein generally as "batch jobs." These jobs are applications that, generally, periodically check persistent data, such as data stored in a database, and look for changes that may have occurred. For example, if an application which enters new products into a database is not one which has previously been coded as a business object, to

generate explicit events on this occurrence, a batch job 34 can periodically scan a product database and determine when new products have been added. Events which are discovered by such a comparison between a previous state of an object, in a persistent memory, with the current state are referred to herein as "implicit events."

Use of batch jobs to scan data looking for implicit events is useful both for events which occur over time, and for use with applications which are not already coded to generate the desired explicit events.

This section of BROWN et al. discloses that an event handler, called an alert manager 24, handles incoming events by determining whether any incoming event requires that a notification be forwarded to a user. This section of BROWN et al. in no way discloses or suggests at least one service-based message handling rule and at least one common message handling rule, as required by claim 34. Instead, this section of BROWN et al. merely discloses that alert manager 24 uses a set of rules to determine to whom, and when, a notification is to be made to a user. BROWN et al. does not disclose or suggest the three separate types of rules - at least one customer-defined message handling rule, at least one service-based message handling rule, and at least one common message handling rule - required by claim 34.

Since BROWN et al. does not disclose or suggest at least one customer-defined message handling rule, at least one service-based message handling rule, and at least one common message handling rule, BROWN et al. cannot disclose or suggest a message handler configured to determine, based on a content of a received message, whether to apply the at least one customer-defined message handling rule, determine, based on the content of the received message, whether to apply the at least one service-based message handling rule, determine, based on the content of the received message, whether to apply the at least one common message handling rule, identify at least one first party when the at least one customer-defined message

handling rule applies to the received message, identify at least one second party when the at least one service-based message handling rule applies to the received message, identify at least one third party when the at least one common message handling rule applies to the received message, and generate new messages to the identified at least one first party, the identified at least one second party, and the identified at least one third party, as also required by claim 34. Instead, BROWN et al. merely discloses an event router 16 that receives incoming events and routes them to recipients that have registered to receive events of this type (col. 2, lines 61-64). BROWN et al. does not disclose or suggest that event router 16 determines, based on a content of a received message, whether at least one customer-defined message handling rule, at least one service-based message handling rule, and at least one common message handling rule apply to the message, and identifies at least one first party when the at least one customer-defined message handling rule applies to the received message, identifies at least one second party when the at least one service-based message handling rule applies to the received message, and identifies at least one third party when the at least one common message handling rule applies to the received message, as required by claim 34.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that BROWN et al. does not anticipate claim 34.

Claims 3-8 depend from claim 34. Therefore, these claims are not anticipated by BROWN et al. for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 34.

Independent claims 35 and 36 recite features similar to features described above with respect to claim 34. Therefore, these claims are not anticipated by BROWN et al. for reasons similar to reasons given above with respect to claim 34.

Claims 14, 15, and 17-20 depend from claim 35. Therefore, these claims are not anticipated by BROWN et al. for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 35.

Claims 24-28 depend from claim 36. Therefore, these claims are not anticipated by BROWN et al. for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 36.

Claims 2, 16, and 29-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over BROWN et al. in view of TEEGAN et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 2 depends from claim 34. The disclosure of TEEGAN et al. does not remedy the deficiencies in the disclosure of BROWN et al. set forth above with respect to claim 34. Therefore, claim 2 is patentable over BROWN et al. and TEEGAN et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 34.

Claim 16 depends from claim 35. The disclosure of TEEGAN et al. does not remedy the deficiencies in the disclosure of BROWN et al. set forth above with respect to claim 35. Therefore, claim 16 is patentable over BROWN et al. and TEEGAN et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 35.

Claims 29-31 depend from claim 36. The disclosure of TEEGAN et al. does not remedy the deficiencies in the disclosure of BROWN et al. set forth above with respect to claim 36. Therefore, claims 29-31 are patentable over BROWN et al. and TEEGAN et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 36.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over BROWN et al. in view of ESCOLAR. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 9 depends from claim 34. The disclosure of ESCOLAR does not remedy the deficiencies in the disclosure of BROWN et al. set forth above with respect to claim 34.

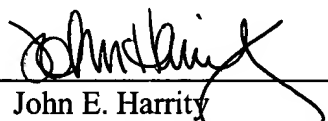
Therefore, claim 9 is patentable over BROWN et al. and ESCOLAR, whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 34.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 13-2491 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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